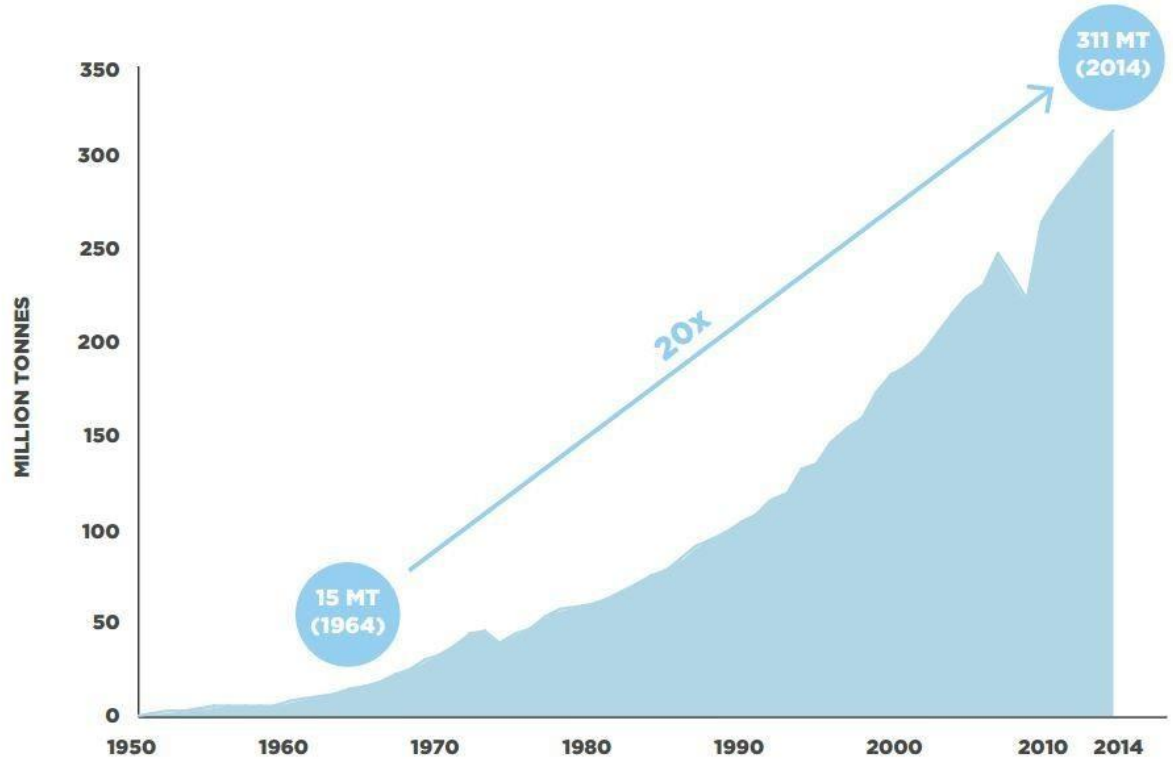
Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act (House Bill 2238, Senate Bill 984)

May 12th, 2021

Global Plastic production has increased 20 fold since the 1960s

Figure 1: Growth in Global Plastics Production 1950–2014

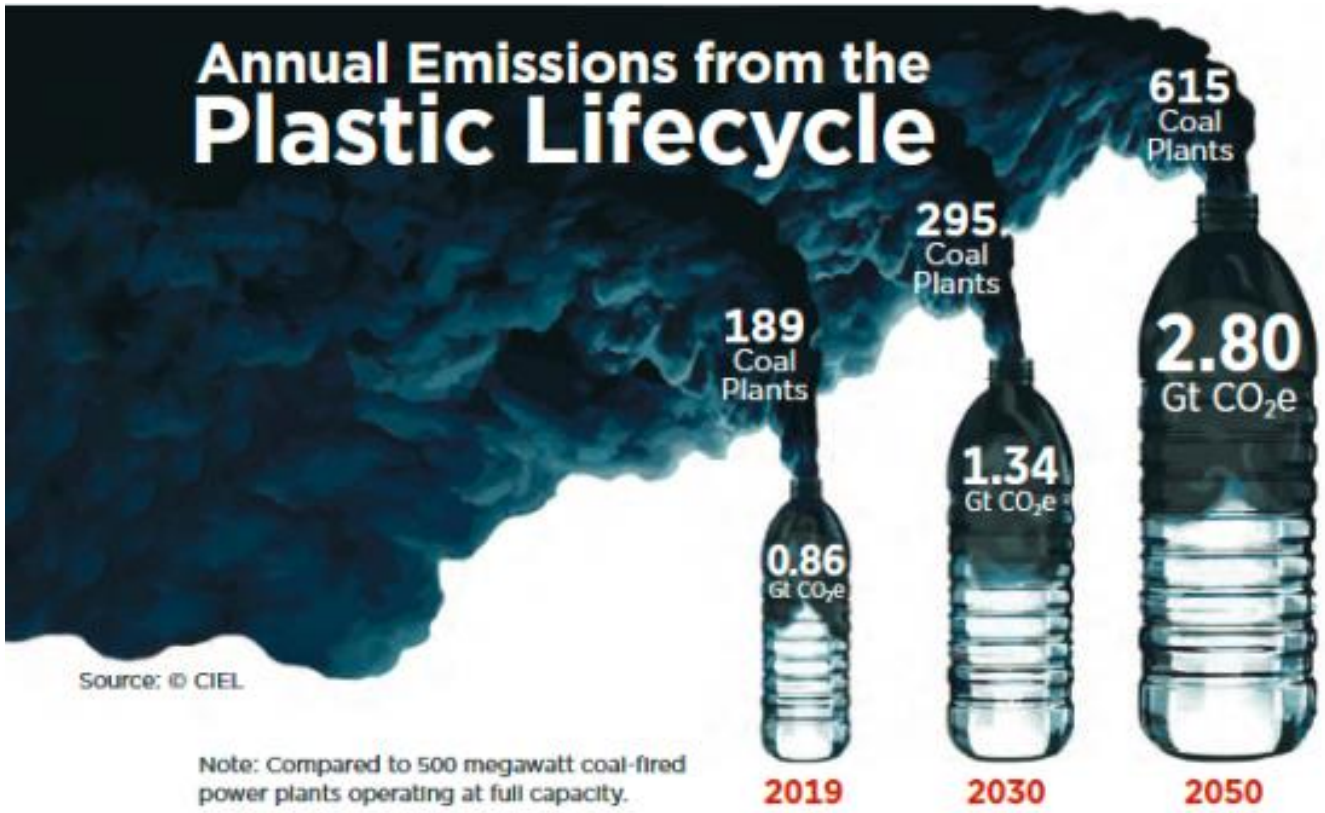


Note: Production from virgin petroleum-based feedstock only (does not include bio-based, greenhouse gas-based or recycled feedstock)
Source: PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2013 (2013); PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2015 (2015).

- **Nearly half of the plastic ever manufactured has been made in the last 15 years**
- **<u>40% of yearly plastic production is single-use (includes packaging)</u>**

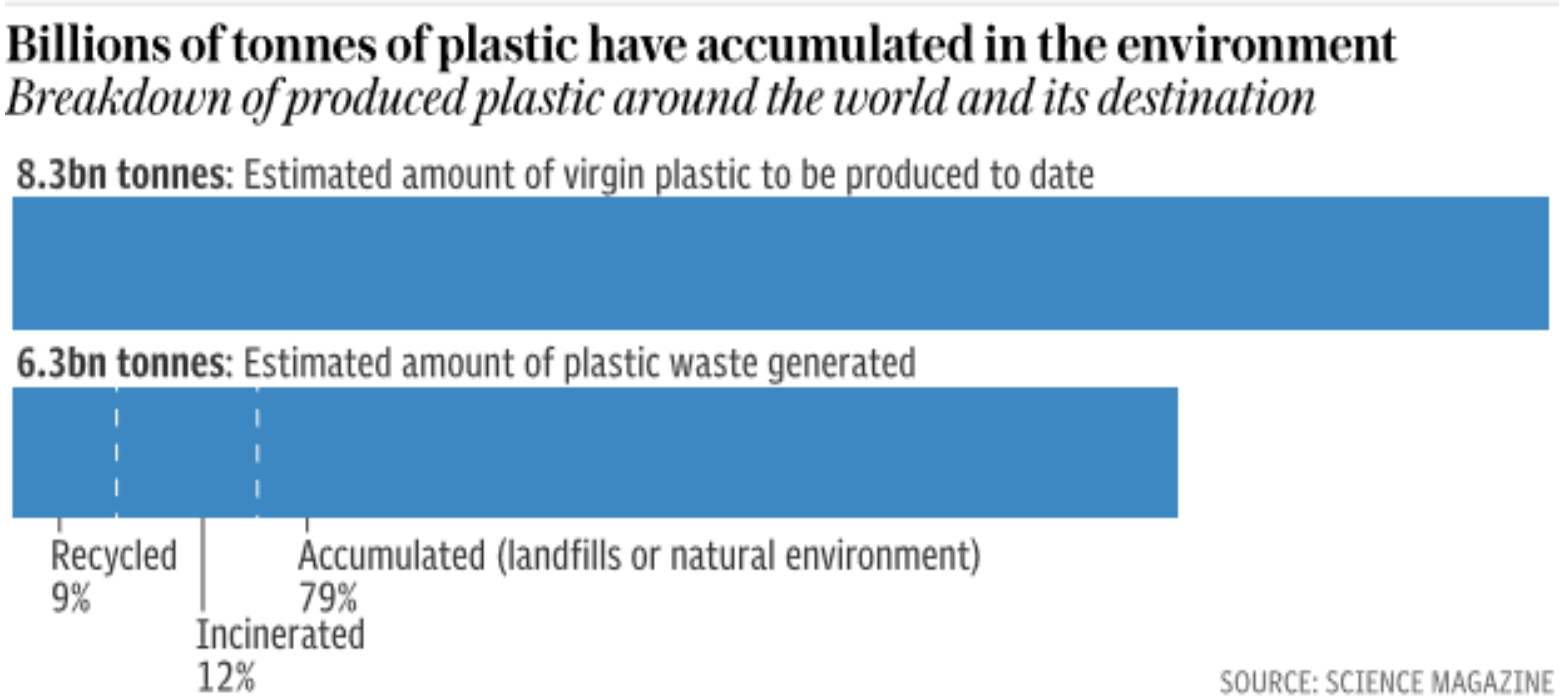
Fast facts about plastic pollution (nationalgeographic.com)

Greenhouse gas emissions from plastic lifecycle threaten our ability to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C degrees



Plastic-and-Climate-FINAL-2019.pdf (ciel.org)

Recycling has failed – to date only 9% of global plastic waste has been recycled



The stark truth about how long your plastic footprint will last on the planet (telegraph.co.uk)

In the United States, only 8% of plastic waste is recycled

According to a Greenpeace report,

- #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs* are the only types of plastics that are truly recyclable in the U.S.[1]

- #3-7 plastic waste (e.g. yogurt containers, pill bottles, straws, plastic bags..) are being sent to landfills, incinerated or exported[1]

- More than 60 investigations have shown that millions of tons of *exported* plastic wastes have been dumped or burned rather than recycled[1]

1 Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastics Recyclability (greenpeace.org)

* #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs (w/out shrink sleeves) are the only types of plastics that are truly recyclable in the U.S.

Plastics are everywhere – they DON'T biodegrade but break up into Microplastics that stay in our environment for hundreds of years

- Adult humans are ingesting roughly a credit card worth of plastic each week
- Microplastics can be found in everything from drinking water to soil to table salt
- Exposure to toxins in plastics are linked to several diseases like cancer, endocrine disruption, autoimmune disease, infertility

Plastic Bag Found at the Bottom of World's Deepest Ocean Trench | National Geographic Society
Anthropogenic contamination of tap water, beer, and sea salt (plos.org)
plastic_ingestion_press_singles.pdf (panda.org)

Plastic production, incineration facilities are overwhelmingly constructed in low income communities of color

Cancer Alley stretches 85 miles along the Mississippi River in Louisiana

- Is poor and predominantly black and is home to 150 oil refineries and petrochemical plants
- People in the area are 50 times more likely to get cancer
- Formosa plans to add a new plastics plant in the region

See Louisiana's 'Cancer Alley' of Chemical Plants With Heavy Pollution (businessinsider.com)

We dump 8 million tons of plastic into our oceans every year

By 2025, for every 3 pounds of fish there will be 1 pound of plastics

Animals die of starvation with their stomachs full of plastic

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act- BFFPPA (House Bill 2238, Senate Bill 984)

BFFPPA will prohibit Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags

Shoppers in the U.S. use one plastic bag per day while shoppers in Denmark use 4 plastic bags per year

- Bans plastic carryout bags
- All other non-plastic carryout bags will be taxed 10c
- Funds collected will be used for grants to distribute reusable carryout bags and to support reuse, recycling, composting infrastructure

Fast facts about plastic pollution (nationalgeographic.com)

BFFPPA will prohibit Other Top Polluting Single-Use Products

Food Service expanded polystyrene cost prohibitive to recycle

BFFPPA will Ban

- Expanded polystyrene (foam) in food service, consumer coolers and shipping packaging
- Plastic utensils and plastic stirrers
  - Straws and Compostable utensils will be available only upon request
- Single-use mini shampoo, soap, lotion provided in hotels
- Non-compostable produce stickers

Clean Air, Water and Environmental Justice – BFFPPA will put a temporary pause on new plastic facilities

- Up to 3-year pause on permitting new and expanded facilities that
  - Create new plastics, Incinerate plastics or
  - Chemical Recycling - convert plastic waste to feedstocks for new products or fuel *(industry's new solution to the recycling crisis)*
    - Out of 37 facilities announced in past 20 years, only 1 produces plastic resins, raising questions on feasibility
    - Energy and Waste intensive
- EPA will use the pause period to research impact of facilities and update regulations on minimal discharges allowed in air and water

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in BFFPPA will shift responsibility from local government to producers

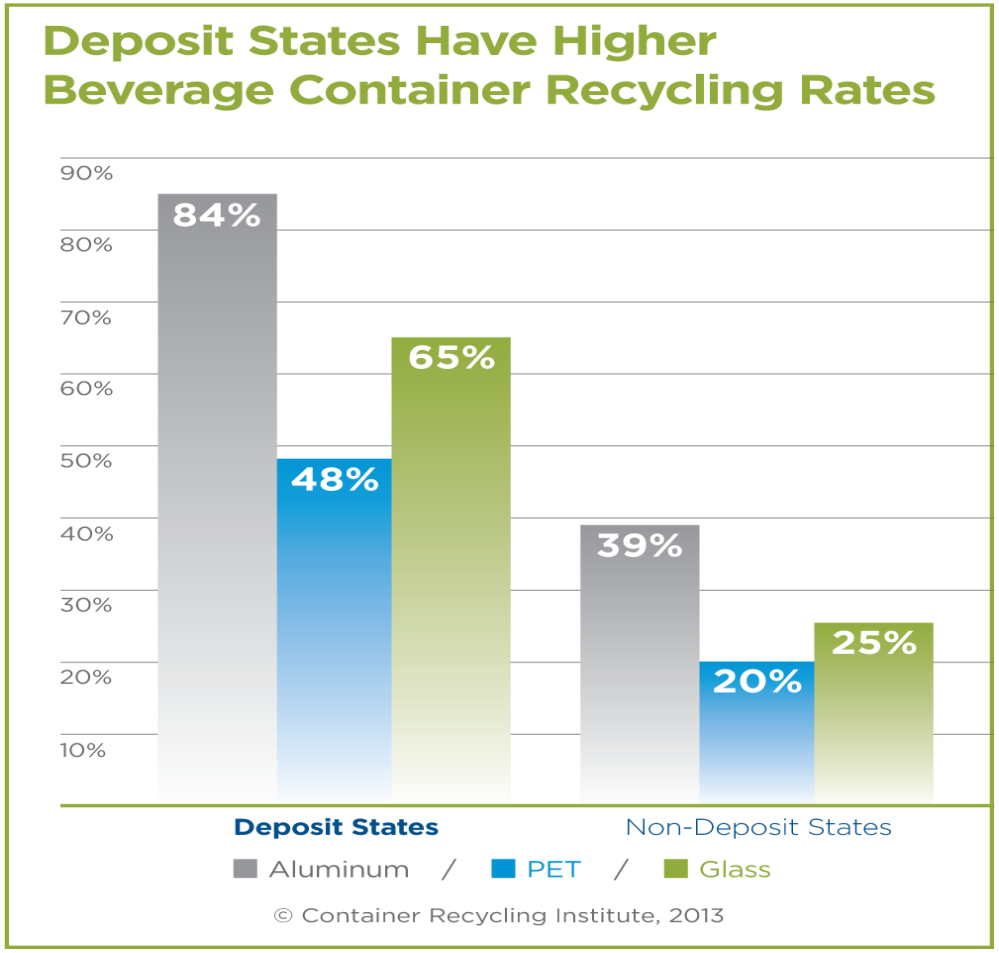
- Requires producers of packaging, containers and food service products to design, manage and finance waste collection and recycling and programs (for all material types – plastic, glass, metal, paper)

- Must meet the minimum targets set for recycling and reuse

BFFPPA sets a minimum recycled content requirement in new plastic beverage bottles

Date	Post Consumer Recycled Content Requirement
2025	25%
2030	50%
2035	70%
2040	80%

BFFPPA will create a nationwide beverage container refund program (10c on all container types - plastic, glass, metal)



Get the Facts - Bottle Bill Resource Guide

BFFPPA will prohibit plastic waste from being shipped to developing countries

- Prohibit Plastic waste/scrap from being exported to any country that is not a member of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD**) or re-exported to a non-OECD country

Countries Tried to Curb Trade in Plastic Waste. The U.S. Is Shipping More. - The New York Times (nytimes.com)

* International agreement between 187 countries. Prohibits shipping non-hazardous plastic shipping between countries without prior informed consent. The US did not sign the agreement.

** Includes 37 nations - the United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, and various counties in Latin America and Europe.

Other Source Reduction and Environmental Justice in BFFPPA

- **Review Effects of Plastic Tobacco Filters, Electronic Cigarettes and Derelict Fishing Gear and propose measure to reduce impacts**

- **Reduce Other Sources of Plastic Pollution including Microfibers and Microplastics**
  - Mandates filtration units on all new clothes washing machines sold in the U.S. by 2025 to catch microfiber pollution
  - Directs the EPA to establish a pilot program to test the efficacy and cost effectiveness of technologies to prevent and remove microplastics from the environment
- **Expand Support for Reuse and Refill Technology**
  - Within the one year, the EPA Administrator will establish a competitive grant program to fund pilot-scale packaging reduction, reuse, and refill projects
  - Within three years, and every five years thereafter, the EPA will issue a report on feasibility and best practices on reuse and refill technology across different sectors
- **Strengthen environmental justice**
  - Facilities would need to list efforts to mitigate potential environmental impacts on surrounding communities through public hearings in the languages of the community

Summary

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act is Ambitious but Not Radical

- 8 US states have restricted or instated fees for single-use plastic bags
- 10 states have Bottle Bills
- 9 US state legislators are coordinating introducing EPR legislation
- 127 countries are regulating plastic bags
- In 2019, the European Parliament voted to ban many single-use plastic items by July 2021
- China, the largest producer of single-use plastics ,will phase out plastic bags, straws and cutlery by 2022

Nine US states coordinate on EPR legislation holding manufacturers accountable for plastic waste (packaginginsights.com)
Single-use plastics banned by EU Parliament - CNN

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act introduced on March 25th, 2021

- Cosponsored by 12 Senators and 92 Congress Members
- In Illinois Cosponsored by
  - Senator Dick Durbin
  - Congress Members – Mike Quigley, Jan Schakowsky, Marie Newman, Lauren Underwood

On April 8th, 2020 organized a constituent meeting with Congressman Schneider, 10th district

- John Bartok, *Sierra Club & Go Green Deerfield*
- Charles Frank, *Sierra Club*
- Jenny Futterman, *Go Green Highland Park*
- Sarah Farooqi , *Libertyville*
- John Katz Mariani, *Green Team Shalom*
- Justin Rubenstein, *Vernon Hills High School*
- Barb Siegel, *Lincolnshire*
- Gail Taxy, *Go Green Highland Park*
- Margaret Winker, *Sierra Club*
- Seema Keshav, *Go Green Vernon Hills and Lincolnshire*

Green Team
CONGREGATION OR SHALOM

SIERRA CLUB
ILLINOIS CHAPTER

GO GREEN DEERFIELD

GO GREEN
Vernon Hills & Lincolnshire

GO GREEN HP

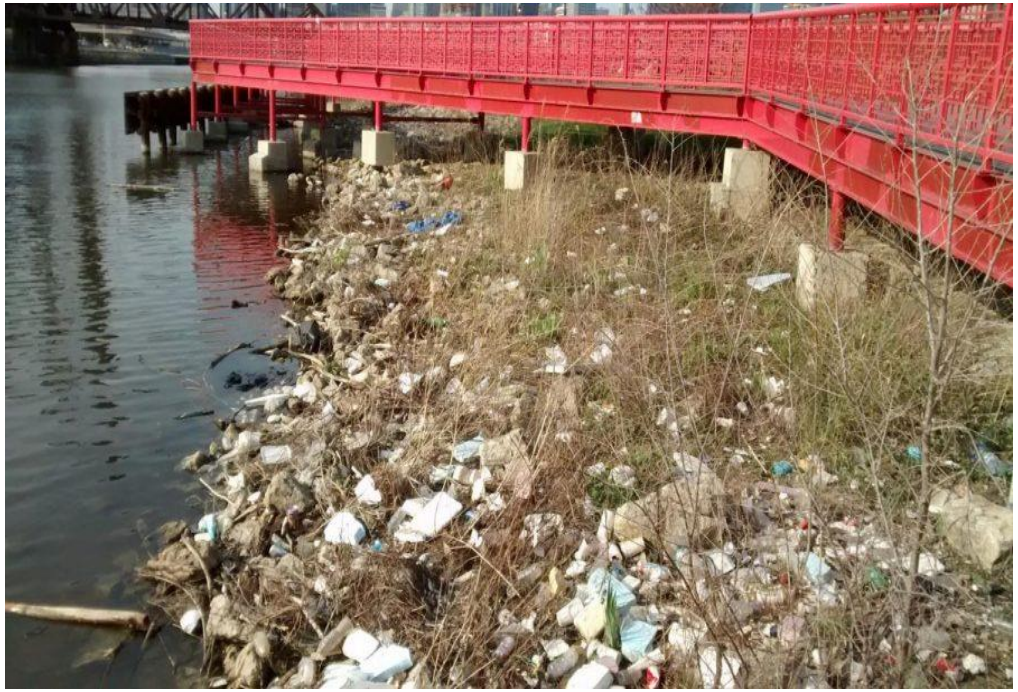
GO GREEN
Vernon Hills & Lincolnshire

Action Item – Get your representative to Cosponsor the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

1. 10th district, **reach out to Congressman Schneider to cosponsor**
2. Other districts, hold a meeting with your congressional representative to cosponsor. **Thank representatives that have cosponsored**
3. Join Go Green Vernon Hills in meeting with Senator Duckworth

Appendix

Lake Michigan's plastic pollution poses ecological and social threats



Lake Michigan is the largest freshwater lake in the U.S. and source of drinking water to nearly 6.6 million people in IL (IEPA)

- According to Rochester Institute of Technology, **Lake Michigan is the most polluted of the Great Lakes**
- A study conducted by Friends of the Chicago River found that 93% of fish in the Chicago area have some sort of plastic inside of them
- The Chicago Dept. of Waste Management says that it meets all regulations(state and federal) for drinking water but they are not required to test for microplastics

Photo credit: courtesy of Shedd Aquarium/ headline from The Daily Northwestern (January 28,2021)
The Scariest Monster in Lake Michigan is Plastic (loyolaphoenix.com)

Recycling is NOT the solution

- Plastic industry has conspired to get people to believe that plastic is easily recyclable
  - In fact, many plastics cannot be recycled and the few that are, are actually “Downcycled”. In the U.S. only 8% of plastic waste is recycled
  - Downcycled = making a product of less value (and in the case of plastic, cannot be used again, e.g., a park bench)
- The industry has also worked to get consumers to believe it is our responsibility to “recycle” even when they know it cannot be
  - Consumers do not have a choice of how products are packaged (plastic bottles, Styrofoam packing material, plastic mailers)

https://www.npr.org/2020/03/31/822597631/plastic-wars-three-takeaways-from-the-fight-over-the-future-of-plastics

Several challenges exist to recycling plastic waste

- Plastics need to be thoroughly cleaned before they can be recycled
- Many packaged materials are made from different types of plastics. It is not cost-effective and sometimes impossible to sort and recycle these mixed plastics
- The same piece of plastic can be recycled only 2-3 times (usually to a lower quality) before it's quality decreases to a point where it can no longer be used and thus is landfilled
- Biodegradable (including plant based) and Compostable plastics need controlled temperature and humidity, achieved in commercial facilities, to decompose . Australia aims to ban biodegradable bags by 2022
- Newer technologies such as Chemical recycling have not proven to work on a commercial scale

7 Things You Didn't Know About Plastic (and Recycling) – National Geographic Society Newsroom
What's Gone Wrong With Plastic Recycling - Consumer Reports
A type of 'biodegradable' plastic will soon be phased out in Australia. That's a big win for the environment (theconversation.com)
1 Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastics Recyclability (greenpeace.org)

The economics do not support recycled plastic

- Recycled plastic is significantly more expensive than Virgin plastic
- The boom in fracked natural gas has spurred massive new investments in plastics infrastructure, with $164 billion planned for 264 new facilities or expansion projects in the U.S., alone

The economics of collecting, sorting and reprocessing plastic products are likely to worsen as expansion of plastic production lowers the cost of new plastic resin

U.S. Recycling Industry Is Struggling To Figure Out A Future Without China : NPR
Fueling-Plastics-How-Fracked-Gas-Cheap-Oil-and-Unburnable-Coal-are-Driving-the-Plastics-Boom.pdf (ciel.org)
Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastics Recyclability (greenpeace.org)

Regions/countries with higher recycling rates are introducing laws to curb plastic production

- Plastic recycling rates in Europe are around 30% and 20% in China
  - In 2019, the European Parliament voted to ban many single-use plastic items by 2021
  - China, the largest producer of single-use plastics ,will phase out plastic bags, straws and cutlery by 2022

Recycling does not solve the upstream issues of plastic production such as greenhouse gas emissions, environmental justice issues and the health impact from plastic production and it's use

BFFPPA investment in U.S domestic recycling and composting infrastructure

- Guidance to standardize recycling and composting collection across communities and states

- Producers will be required to include labels on whether a product is recyclable, not recyclable, compostable or reusable
  - Products that are not recyclable will not have confusing symbols (like the chasing arrow)